SO
COLD...

I KNOW.
YOU'LL FEEL
BETTER
SOON.

I'll

BE DEAD SOON...
DON'T SAY THAT.

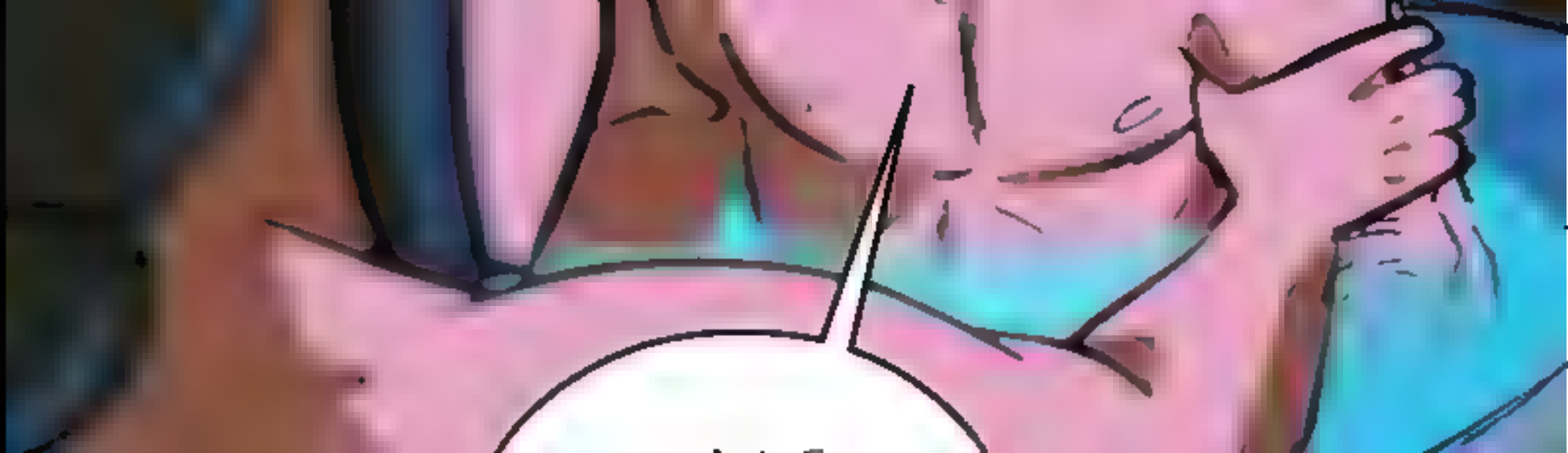
JUST LET ME GO WITH

RODYA...

WHAT?

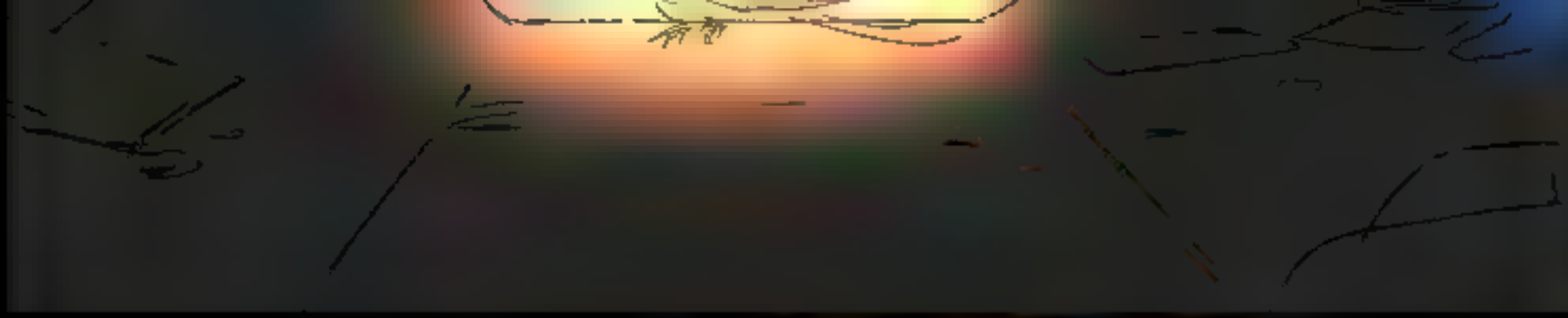
I'M RIGHT HERE.
...GYRUS?
I NEED YOU

I NEED YOU
TO STAY AWAKE,
OKAY?



...AM I
IN SOUP
AGAIN?
OY,

SNAP OUT OF IT!
SPLASH



CHAPTER 159

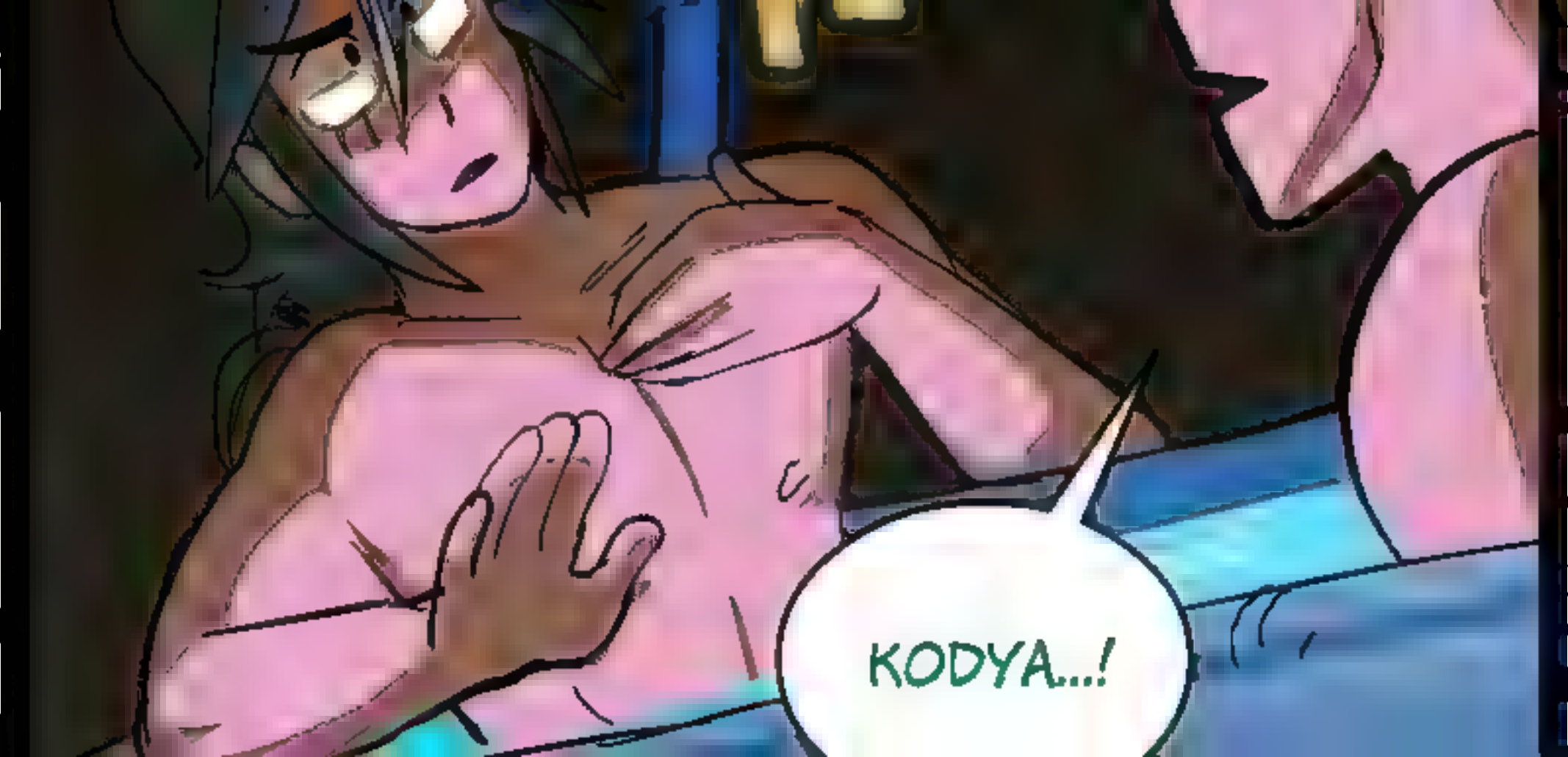
" FOXTROT "

AAH!!

DON'T

EAT ME!
CYRUS

IT'S ME.


KODYA...!

PLEASE, *PLEASE* DON'T BE A DREAM THIS TIME!

...YOU'VE
BEEN ASLEEP

THIS WHOLE TIME?

YOU
ALMOST FROZE
TO DEATH, YOU
KNOW.

WHAT WERE YOU THINKING, WEARING CLOTHES LIKE *THAT* IN THE MIDDLE OF WINTER?

MY
CLOTHES...?

I HUNG
THEM UP TO

DRY, BUT I'LL
FIND YOU SOMETHING
WARMER TO WEAR
BEFORE WE GO
OUT AGAIN...

...WHAT'S WRONG?

N-NO,
NOTHING!

SCOOT

...ARE
YOU SHY?

NO!
...I DON'T KNOW.
MAYBE HALF OF ME

IS STILL A LITTLE
SHY AROUND
YOU...

...WHICH

HALF?

LET'S CHANGE THE SUBJECT!

OKAY...
HOW ABOUT
WHAT HAPPENED
TO YOUR
ARM?

DID IT

GROW BACK WHEN YOU LEFT THE ROOM OF SWORDS?

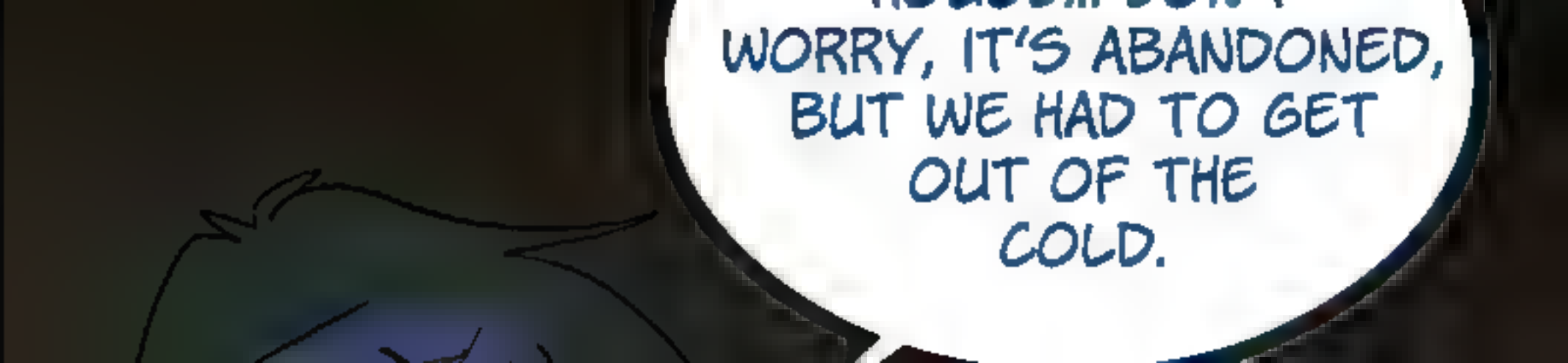
SOMETHING
LIKE THAT

BIRD THAT...

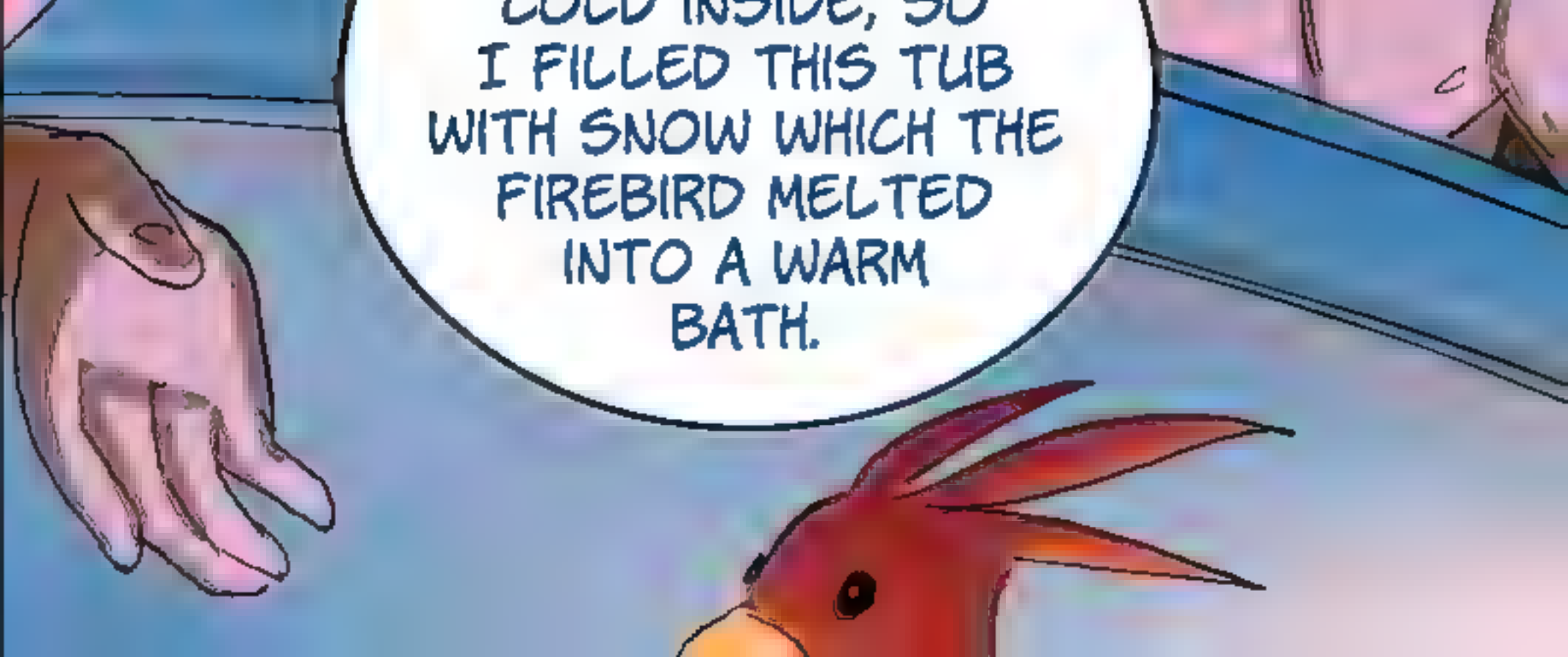
UM...

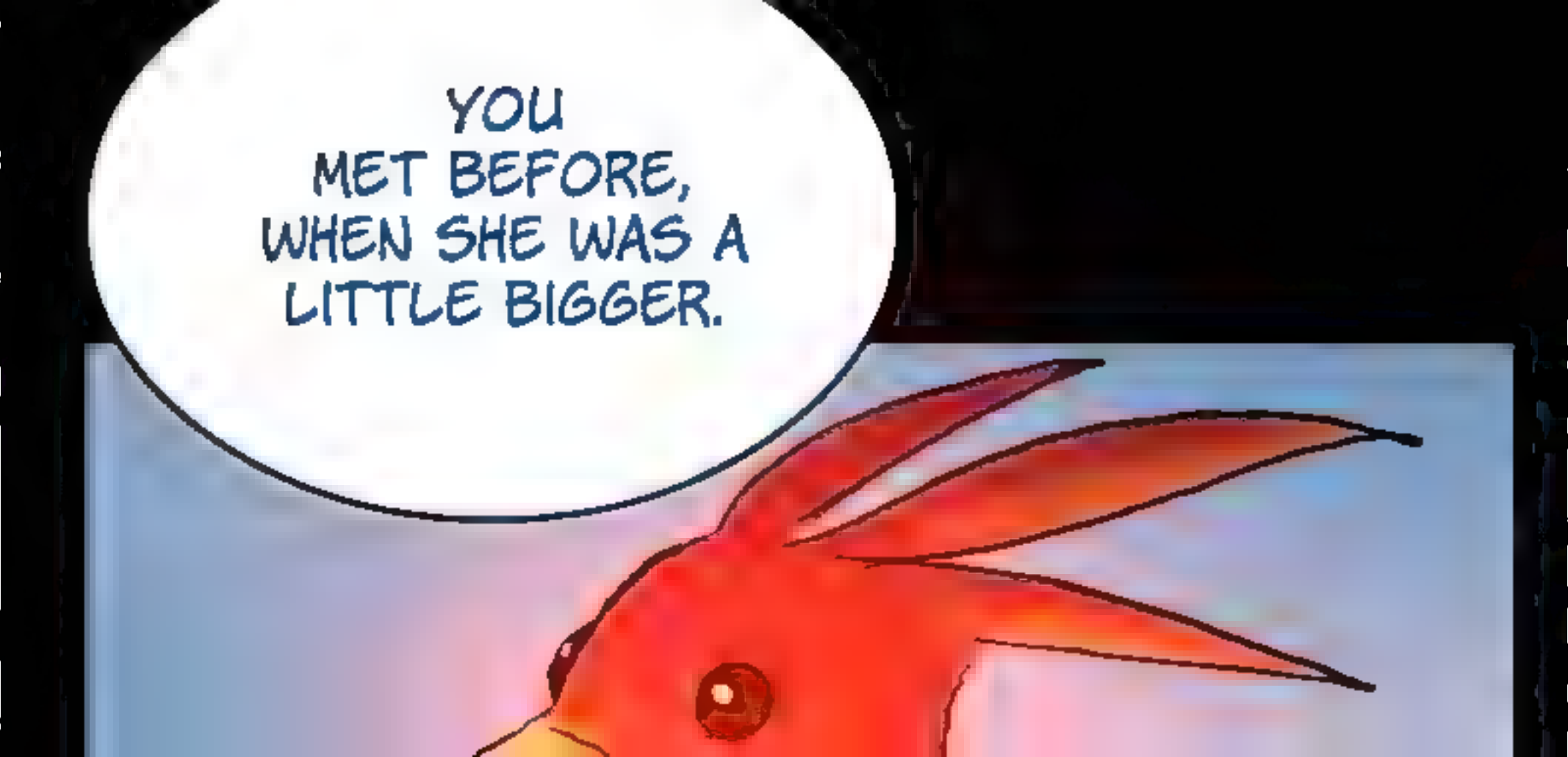
WHERE ARE WE?

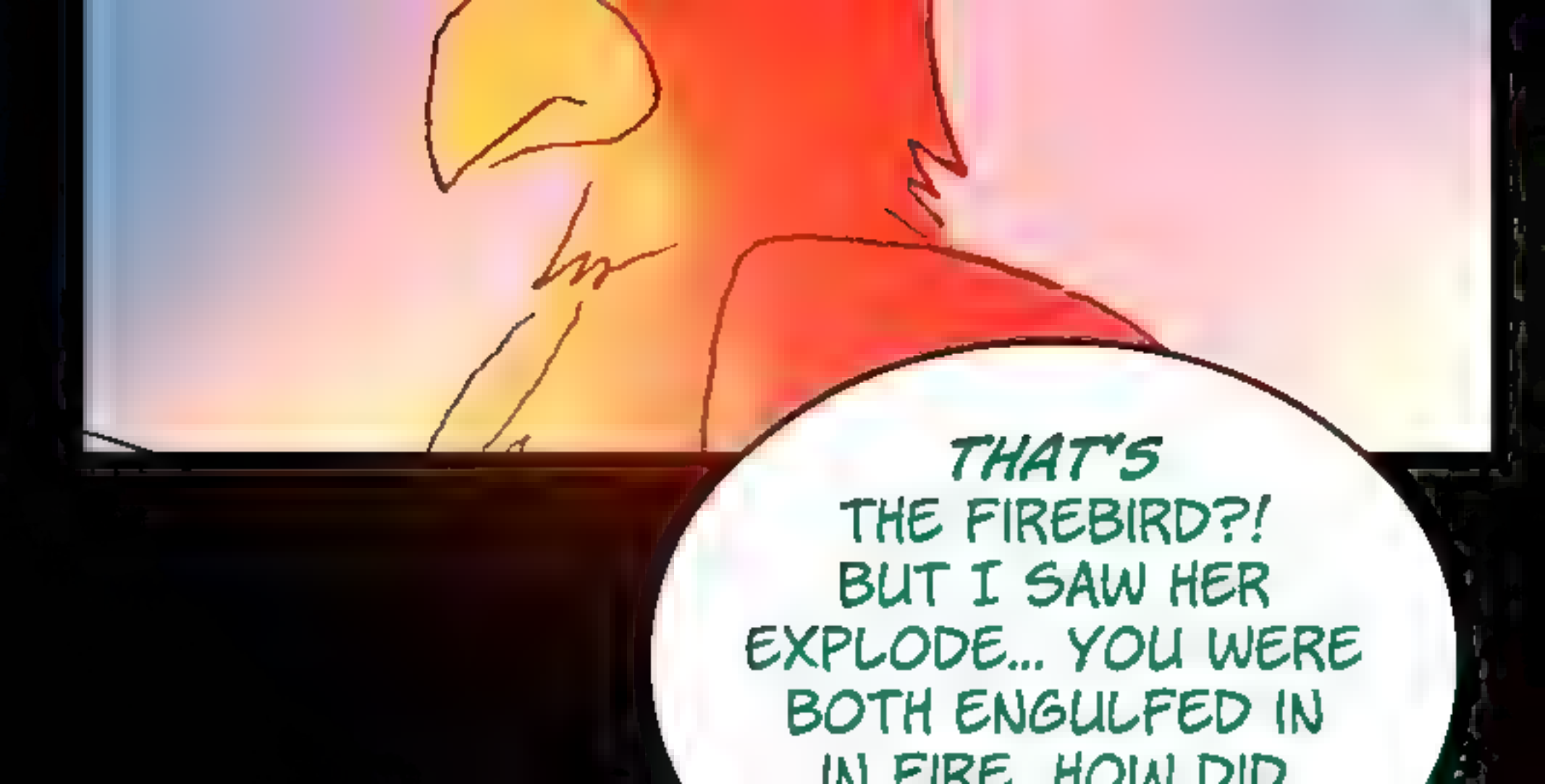
SOMEBODY'S
HOUSE... DON'T


WORRY, IT'S ABANDONED,
BUT WE HAD TO GET
OUT OF THE
COLD.

BUT IT WAS
STILL PRETTY


COLD INSIDE, SO
I FILLED THIS TUB
WITH SNOW WHICH THE
FIREBIRD MELTED
INTO A WARM
BATH.

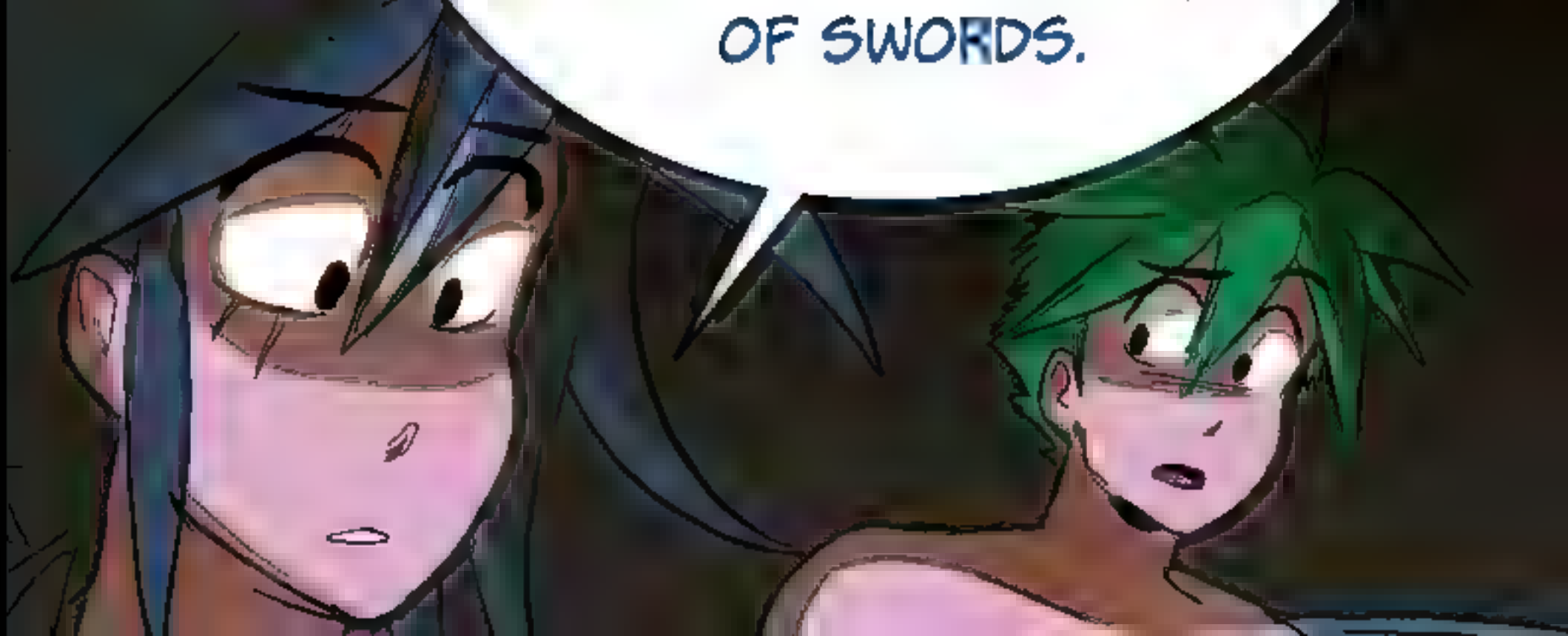

YOU
MET BEFORE,
WHEN SHE WAS A
LITTLE BIGGER.

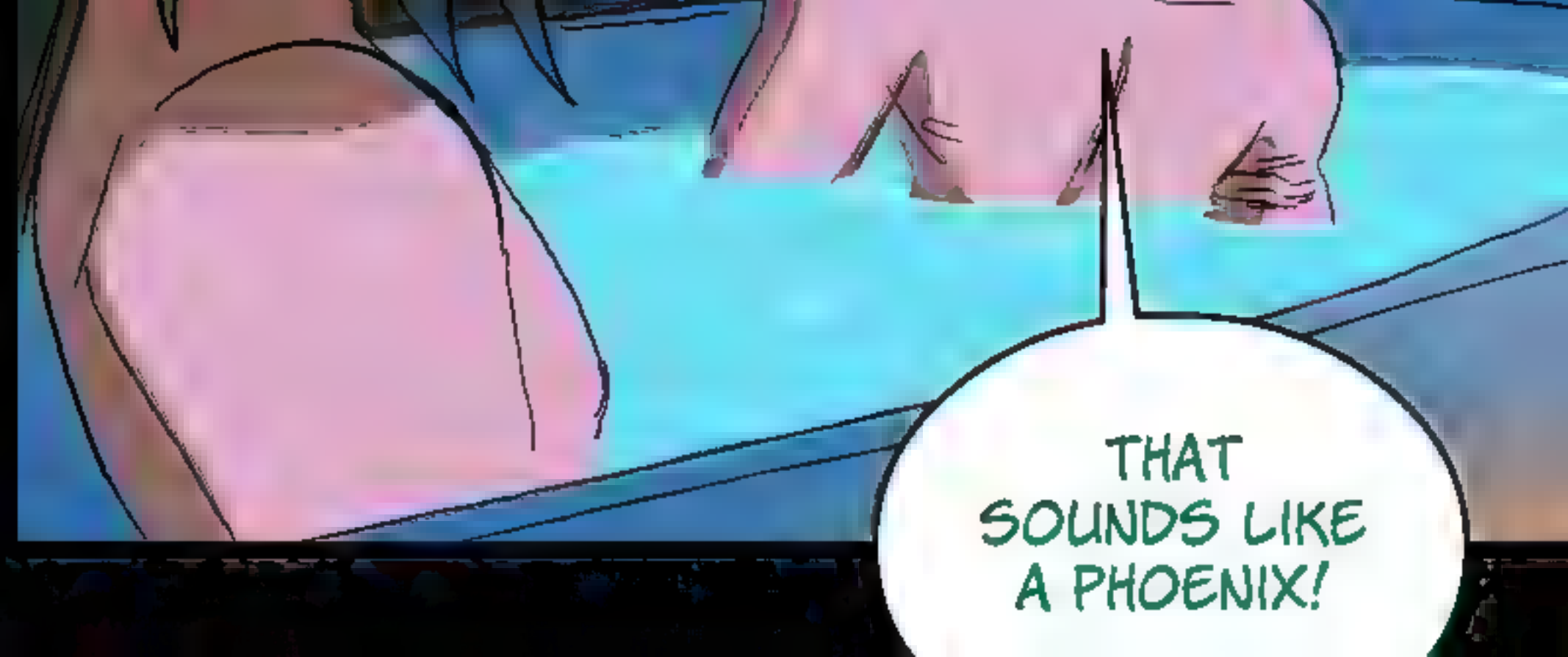

THAT'S
THE FIREBIRD?!
BUT I SAW HER
EXPLODE... YOU WERE
BOTH ENGULFED IN

IN FIRE, HOW DID
YOU SURVIVE?!

FOR A
SECOND I THOUGHT

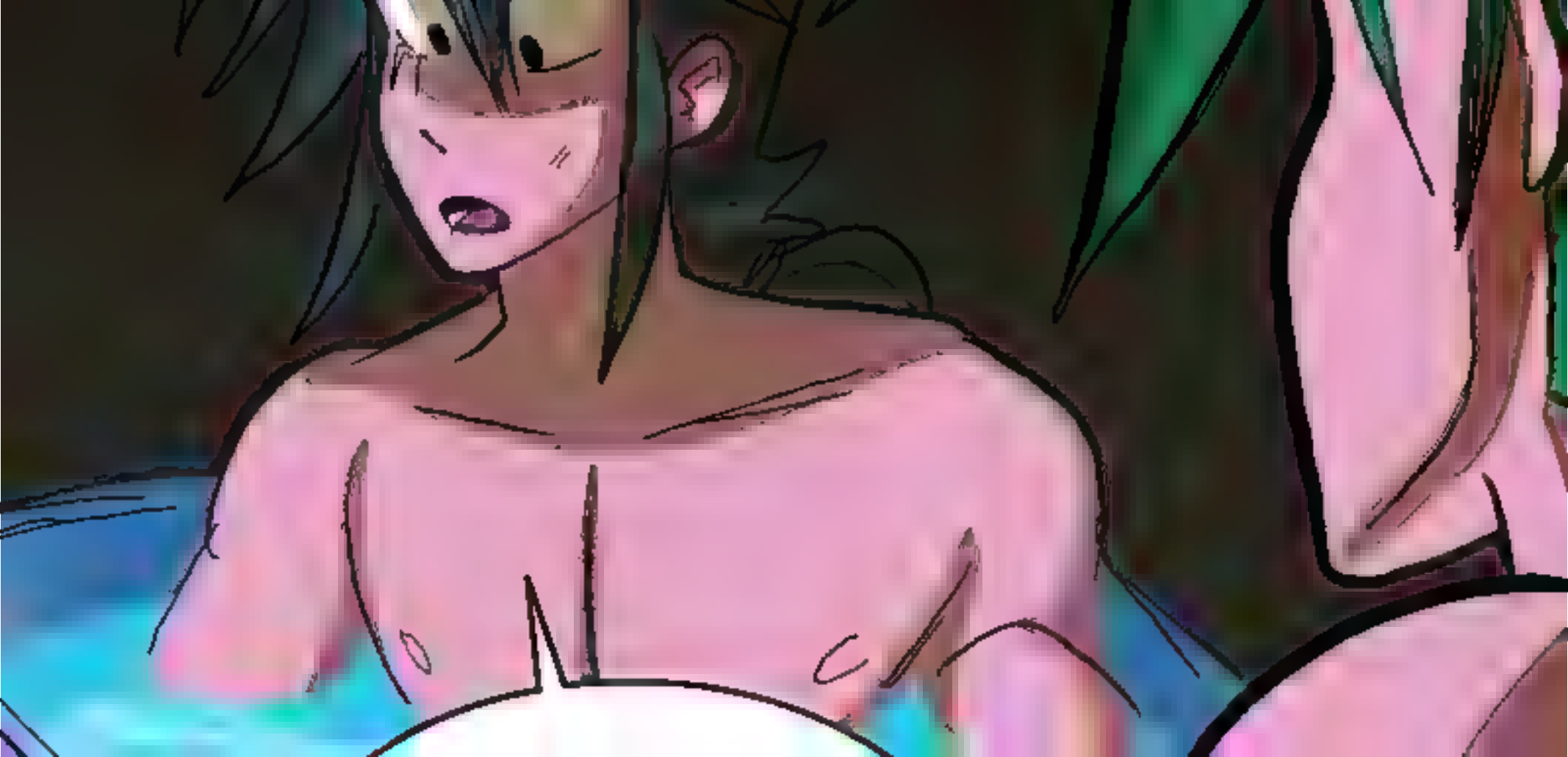
I MIGHT DIE TOO, BUT SHE PROTECTED ME FROM THE FLAMES. THE FIREBIRD NEVER REALLY DIES... JUST STARTS OVER, KIND OF LIKE A RESET IN THE ROOM

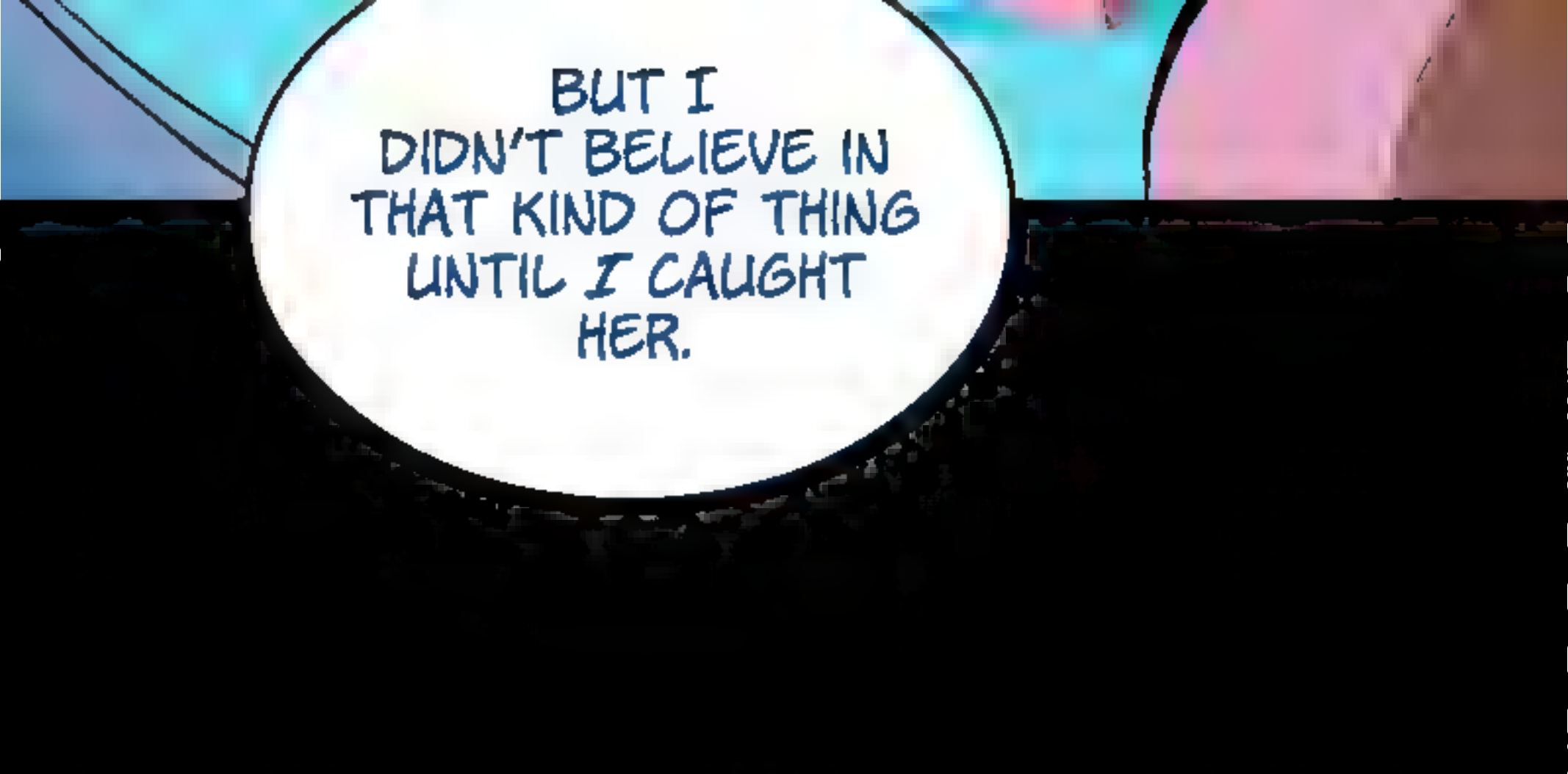

OF SWORDS.


THAT SOUNDS LIKE A PHOENIX!

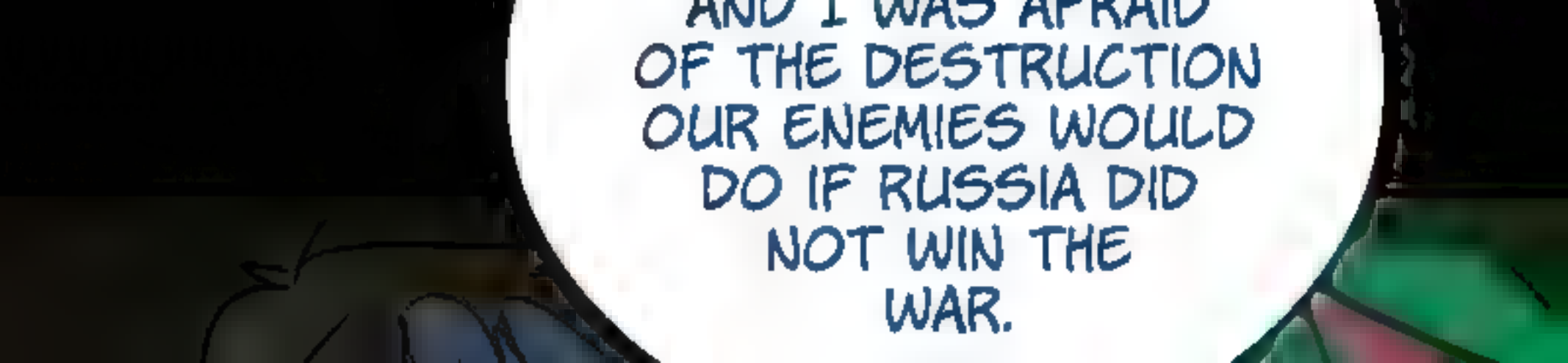
MAYBE...
BUT WE CALL IT
Жар-птица. LEGEND
HAS IT THAT THE FIREBIRD

BRINGS GOOD LUCK, BUT
ANYONE WHO CAPTURES
IT WILL HAVE GREAT
MISFORTUNE.



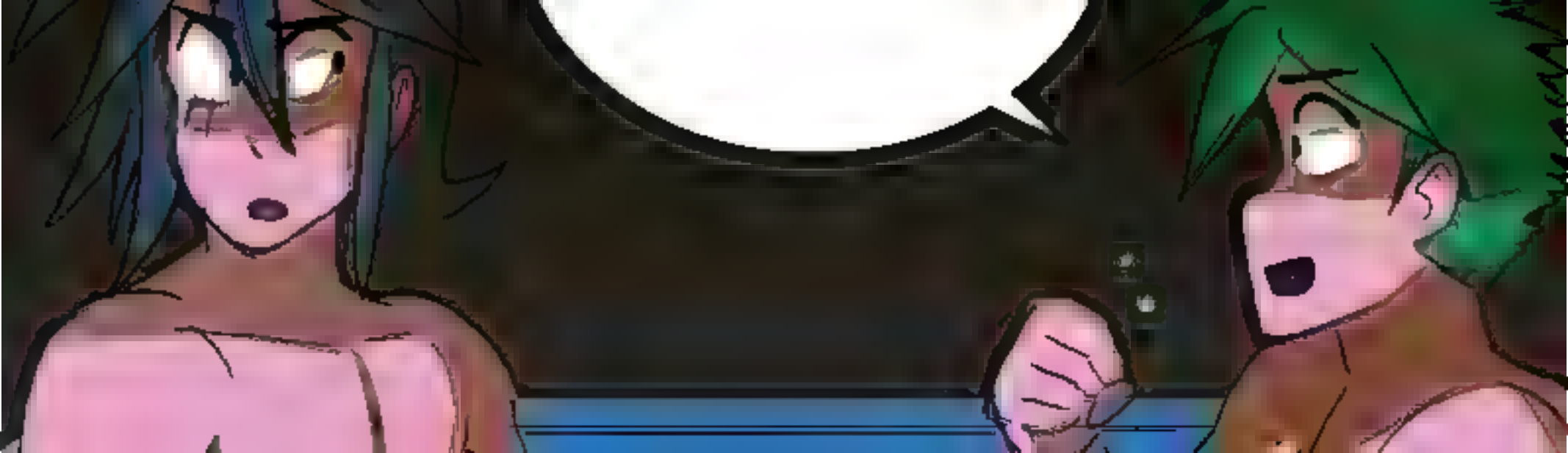

BUT I
DIDN'T BELIEVE IN
THAT KIND OF THING
UNTIL I CAUGHT
HER.

WE WERE
BEING INVADED,


AND I WAS AFRAID
OF THE DESTRUCTION
OUR ENEMIES WOULD
DO IF RUSSIA DID
NOT WIN THE
WAR.

BUT
WHEN I GAVE
THE FIREBIRD TO OUR
ARMY, THEY USED HER
TO BURN OUR OWN

LINES TO THE GROUND...
ATTRITION WARFARE!



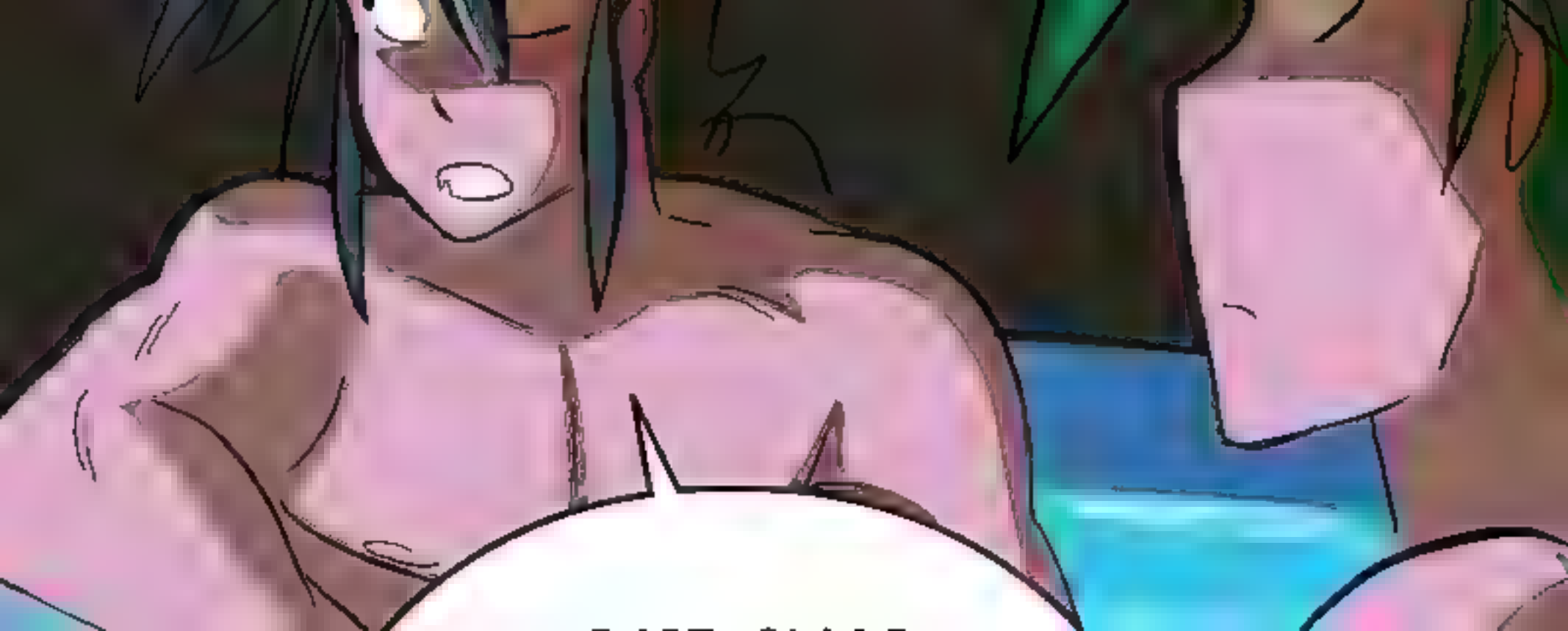
WHAT?

I REMEMBER READING ABOUT THIS IN HISTORY BOOKS! RUSSIA DEFEATED FRANCE BY BURNING EVERYTHING IN THEIR WAKE, STARVING THE FRENCH ARMY OF RESOURCES AND FORCING THEM TO RETREAT!

YOU PROBABLY DID HELP WIN THE WAR!

IT DOESN'T
REALLY FEEL LIKE
WINNING WHEN THERE'S

NOTHING LEFT
TO LOSE.



EVER SINCE
I CAPTURED THE
FIREBIRD, I'VE BEEN
LOSING EVERYTHING
THAT WAS IMPORTANT
TO ME.

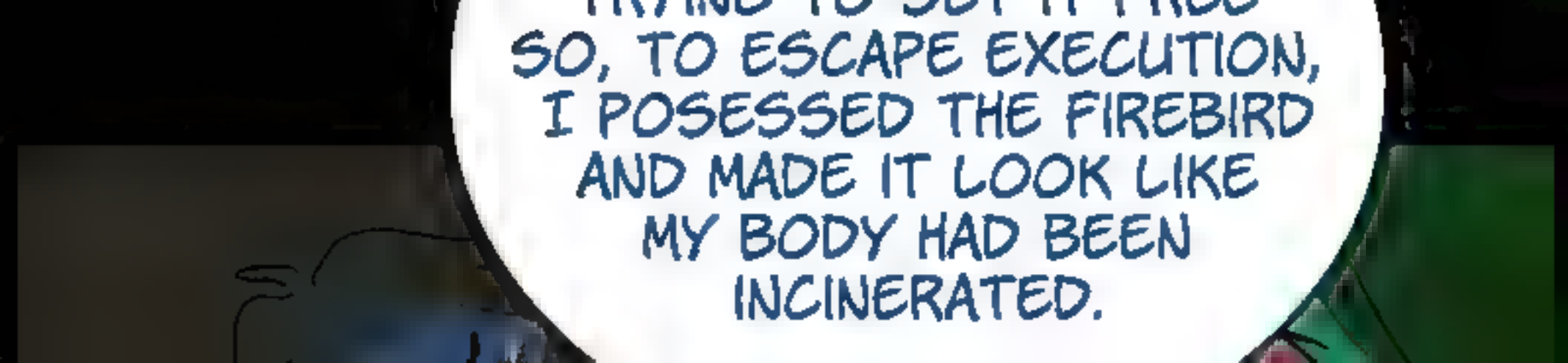
I'M SO SORRY... I DIDN'T MEAN DOWNPLAY YOUR LOSS.

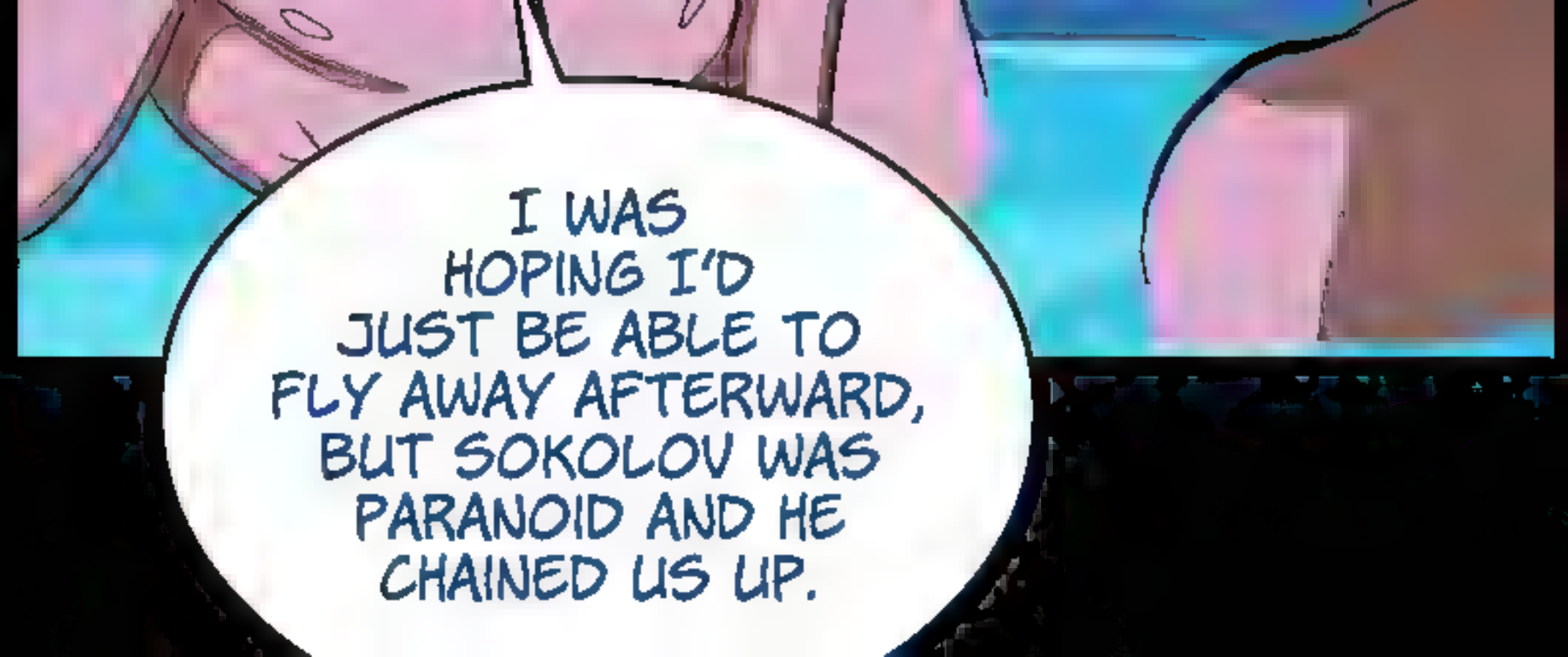
IT'S
FINE... YOU'VE
ACTUALLY GIVEN
ME HOPE.

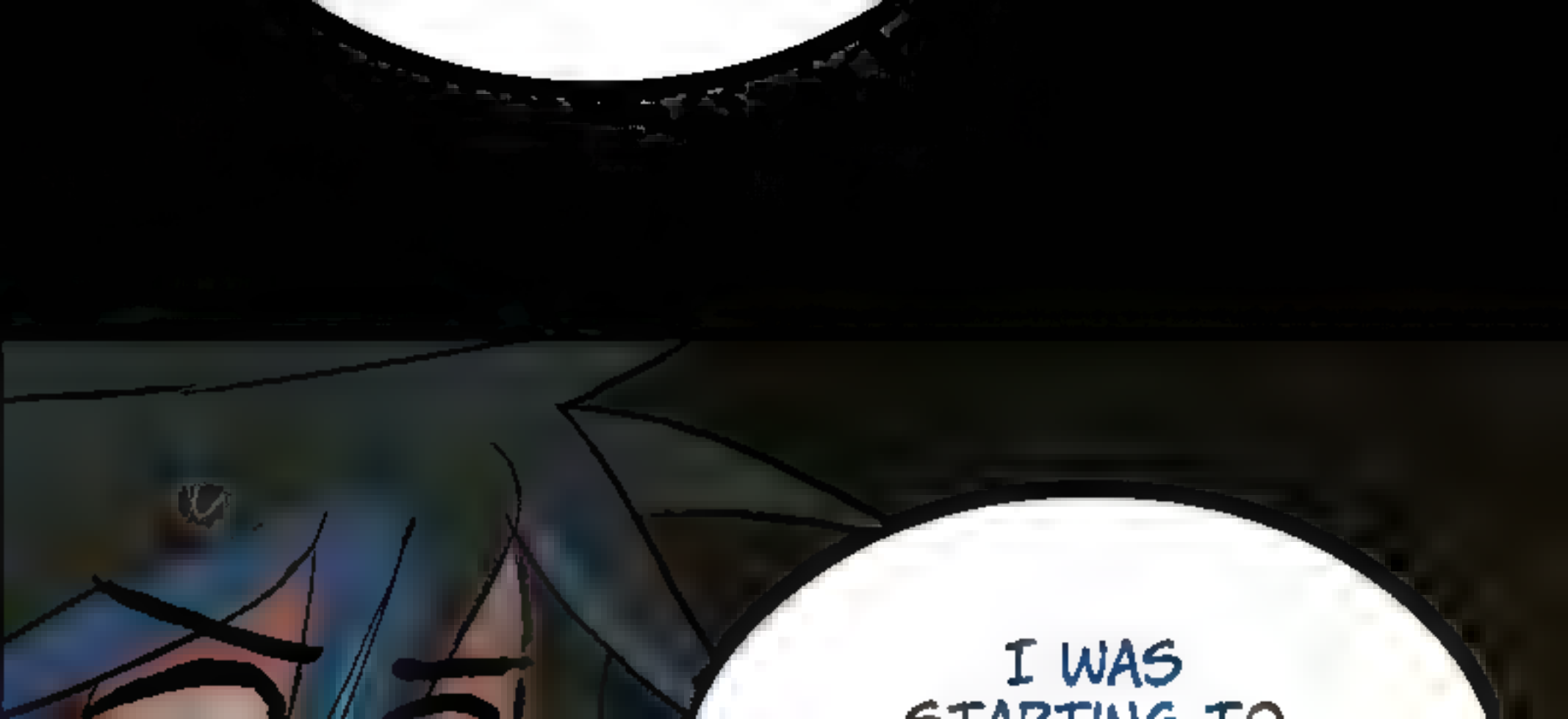
WHEN WE PARTED IN THE ROOM OF SWORDS, I THOUGHT "THIS TIME I'VE LOST HIM FOR GOOD."

I DIDN'T THINK FREEING THE FIREBIRD WOULD CHANGE ANYTHING FOR ME, BUT I KNEW IT WAS THE RIGHT THING TO DO.

THEN GENERAL
SOKOLOV CAUGHT ME
TRYING TO SET IT FREE

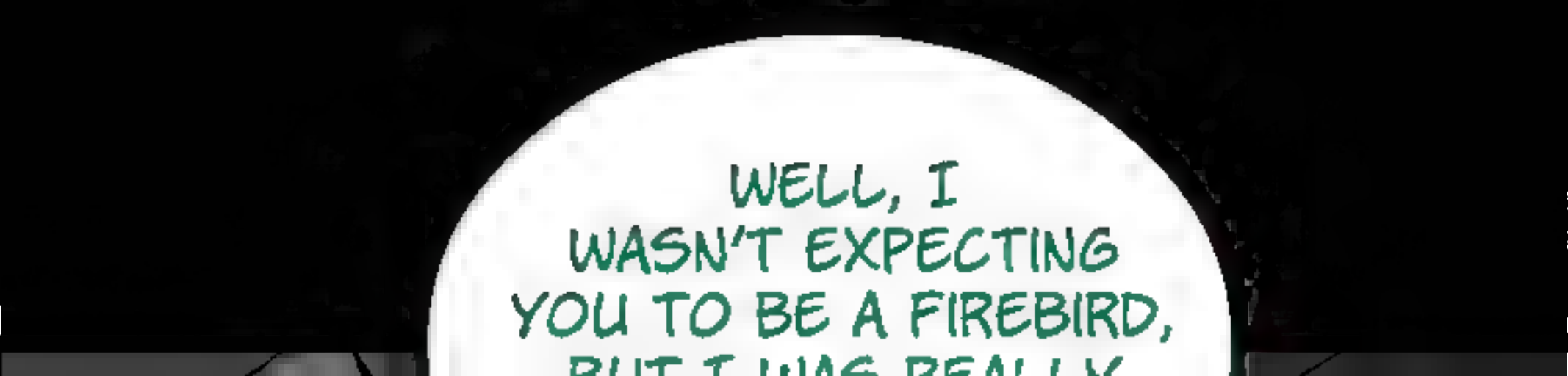

TRYING TO GET IT FREE
SO, TO ESCAPE EXECUTION,
I POSESSED THE FIREBIRD
AND MADE IT LOOK LIKE
MY BODY HAD BEEN
INCINERATED.

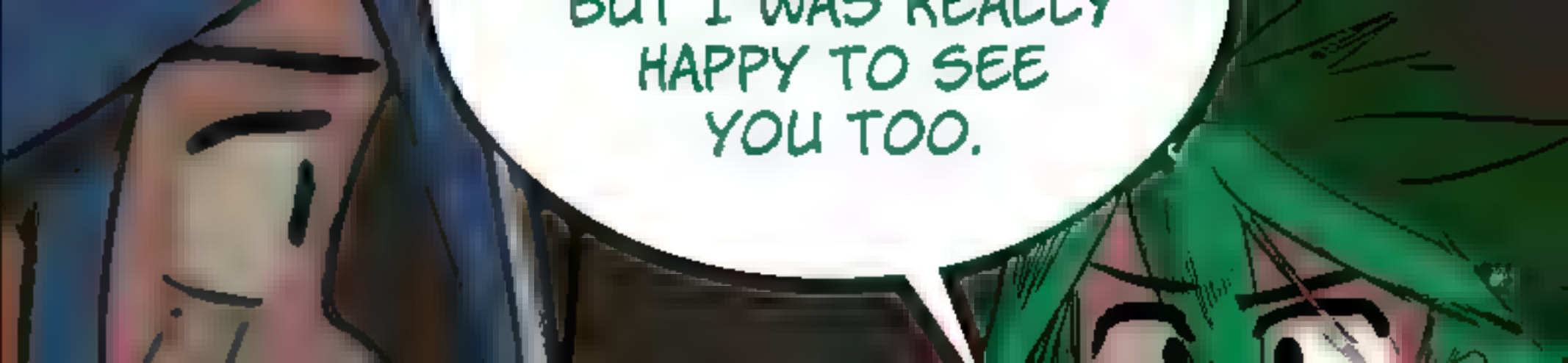

I WAS HOPING I'D JUST BE ABLE TO FLY AWAY AFTERWARD, BUT SOKOLOV WAS PARANOID AND HE CHAINED US UP.


I WAS

STARTING TO
THINK I MIGHT BE
TOO CURSED TO
CHANGE ANYTHING.

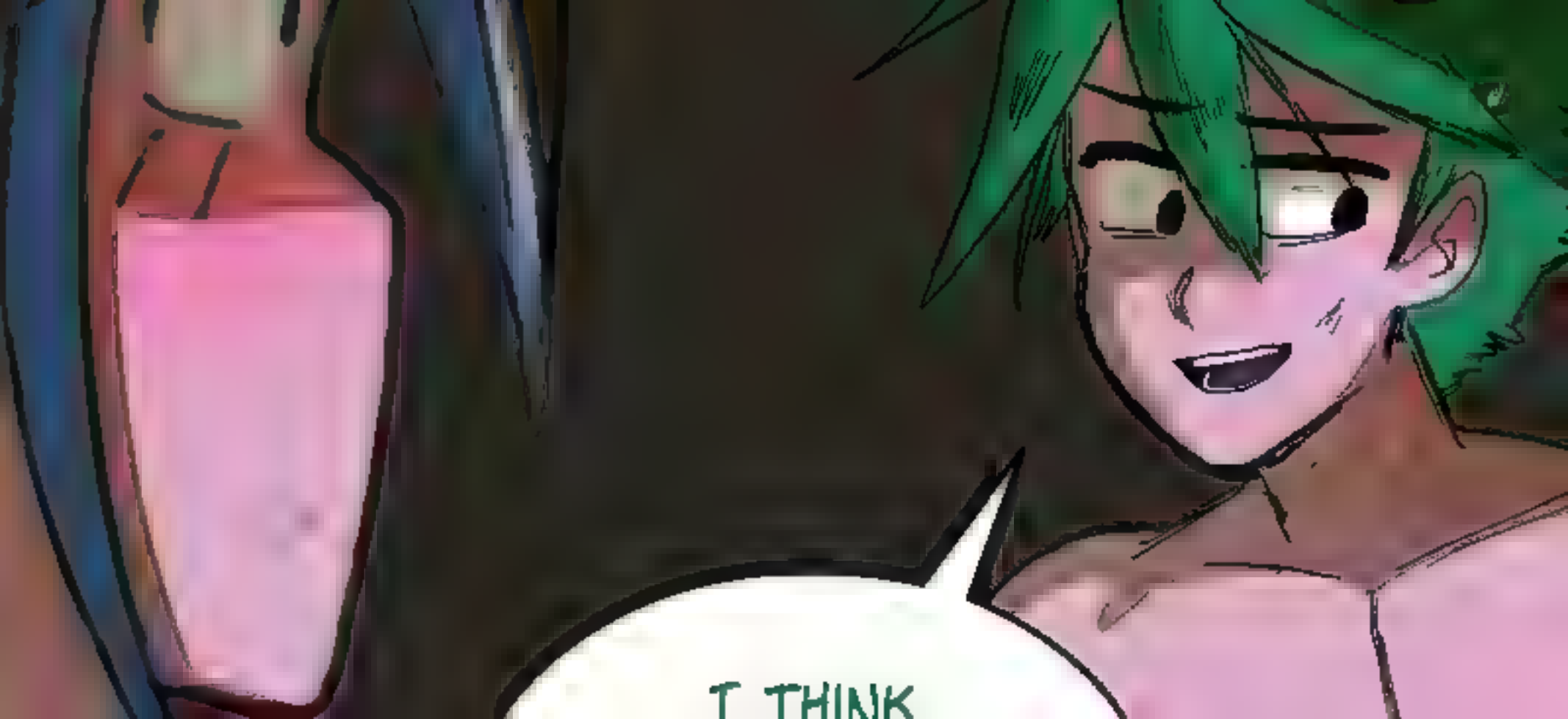
BUT THEN YOU APPEARED, AND I THOUGHT "THERE'S HOPE AFTERALL".


WELL, I
WASN'T EXPECTING
YOU TO BE A FIREBIRD,


BUT I WAS REALLY
HAPPY TO SEE
YOU TOO.

YOU

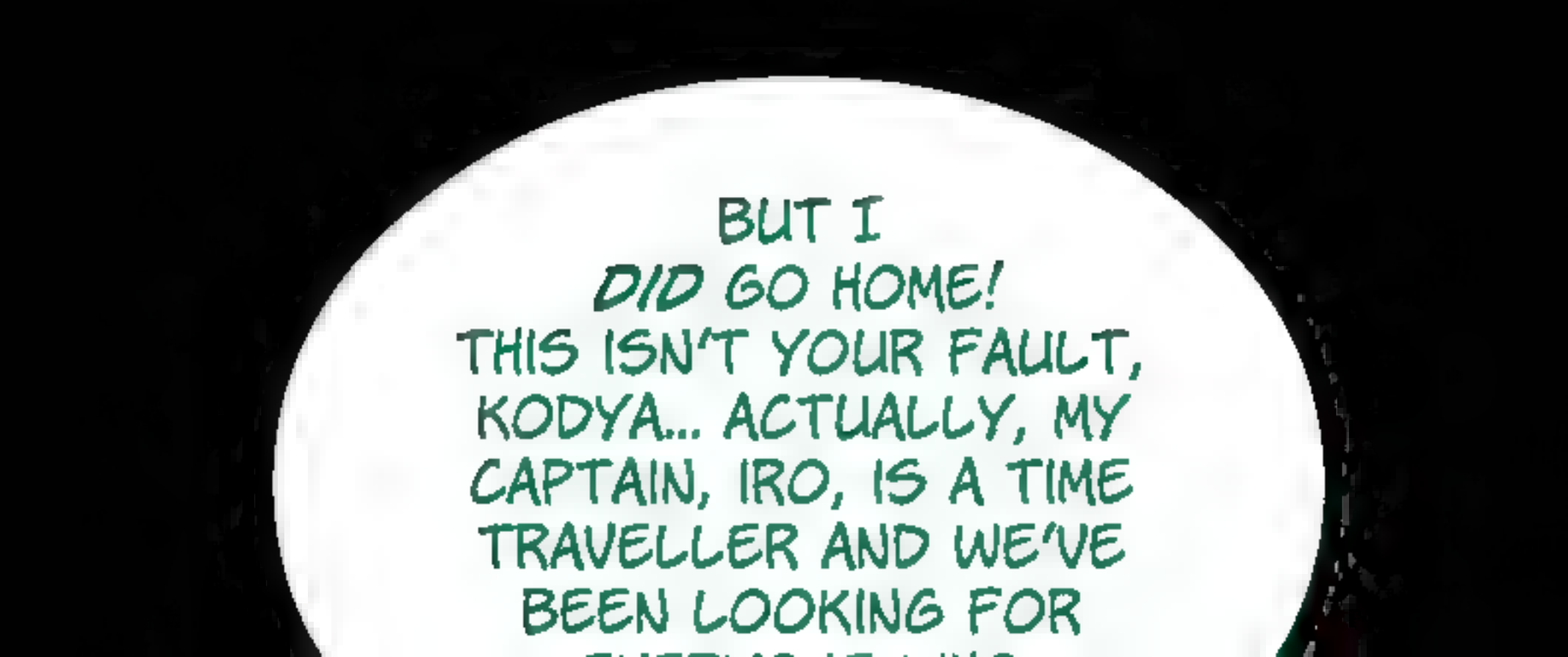
KNEW IT WAS ME...?


I THINK

I'D RECOGNIZE
YOUR BLUE EYES
ANYWHERE.

BUT
YOU PROBABLY
WANTED TO GO HOME
TO YOUR TIME... AND
NOW YOU'RE STUCK

NOW YOU'RE STUCK
HERE WITH ME.

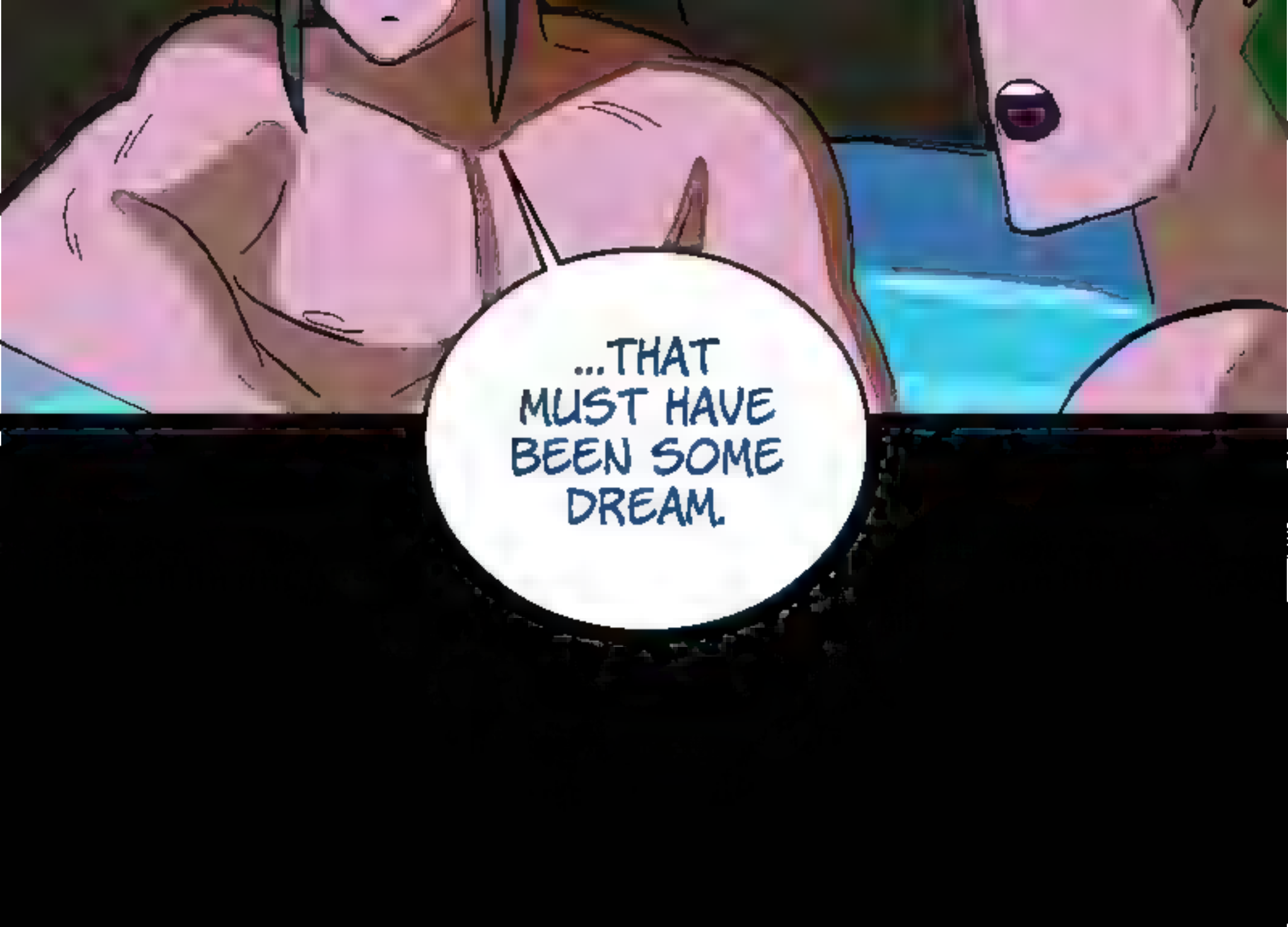

BUT I
DID GO HOME!
THIS ISN'T YOUR FAULT, KODYA... ACTUALLY, MY CAPTAIN, IRO, IS A TIME TRAVELLER AND WE'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR

EVERYONE WHO SURVIVED.

I WAS
SUPPOSED TO

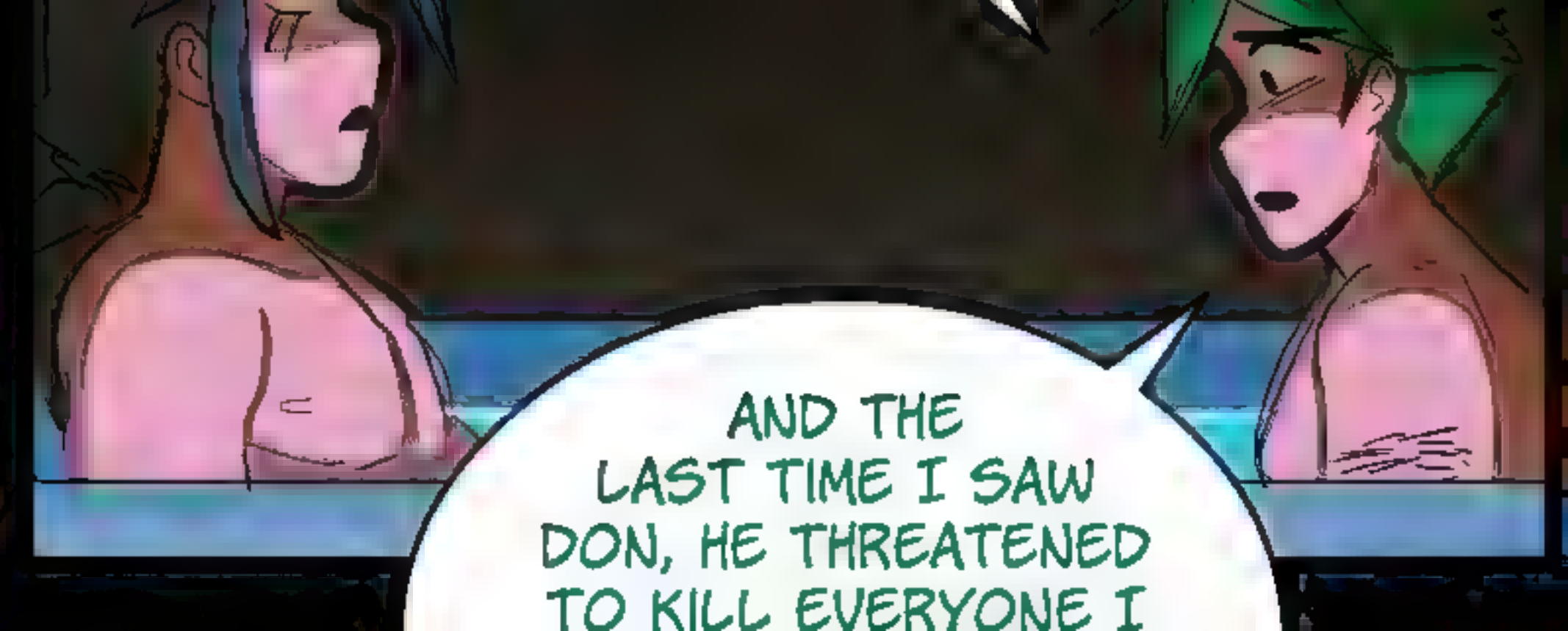
BE IN ANCIENT EGYPT RIGHT NOW WITH HIM AND SYLVIA... THAT'S WHY I WAS DRESSED THAT WAY.

BUT I
ACCIDENTALLY
CAME HERE BECAUSE I
COULDN'T STOP THINKING
ABOUT THIS DREAM I
HAD ABOUT YOU.


...THAT MUST HAVE BEEN SOME DREAM.

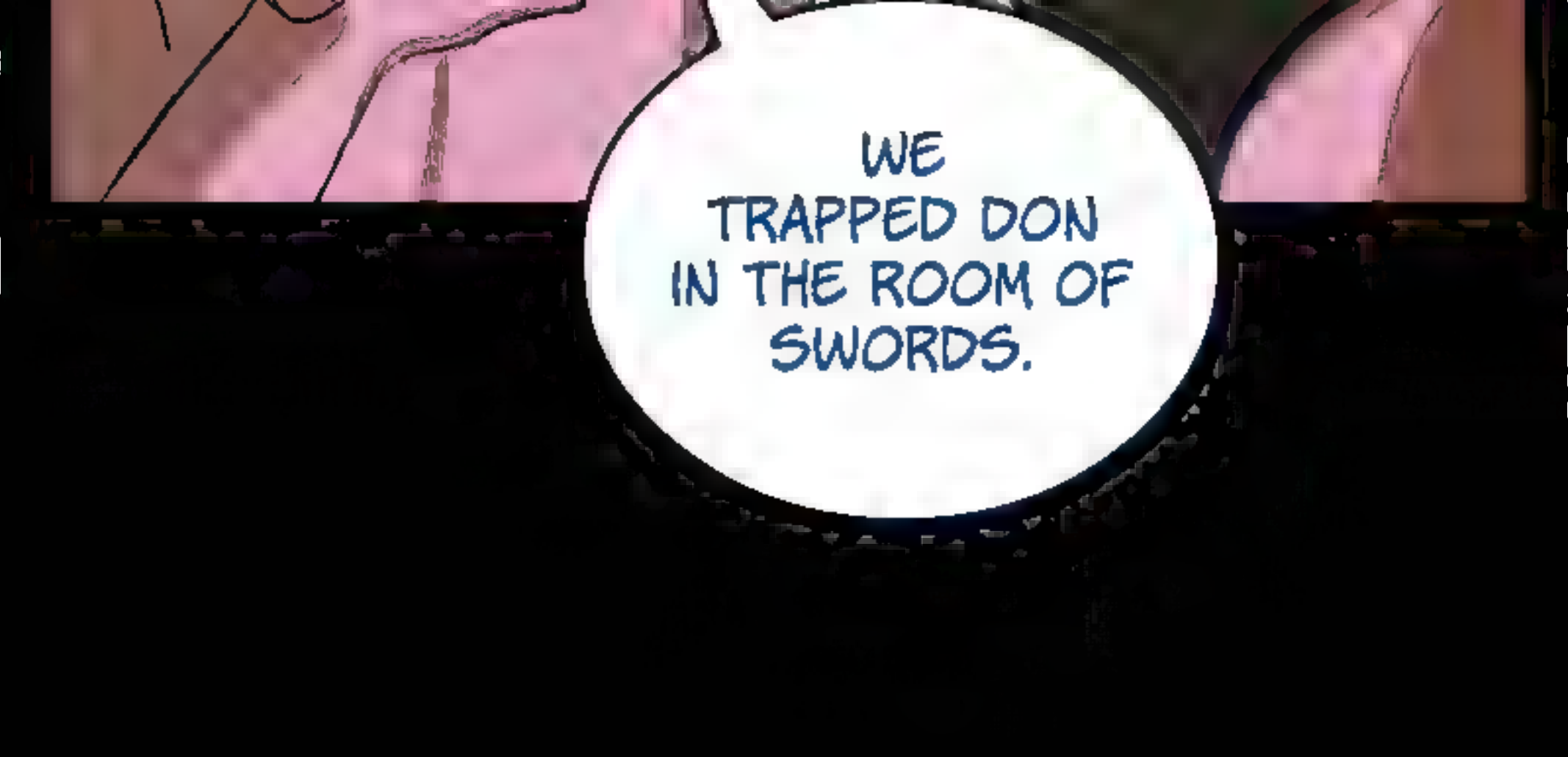
IT WAS...
I DREAMT THAT

YOU TOLD ME I HAD TO FIND YOU BEFORE IT WAS TOO LATE.


AND THE LAST TIME I SAW DON, HE THREATENED TO KILL EVERYONE I

CARE ABOUT... SO I ASSUMED YOU'D BE HIS BIGGEST TARGET.

WHOA, RELAX... IT'S JUST A DREAM, RIGHT?

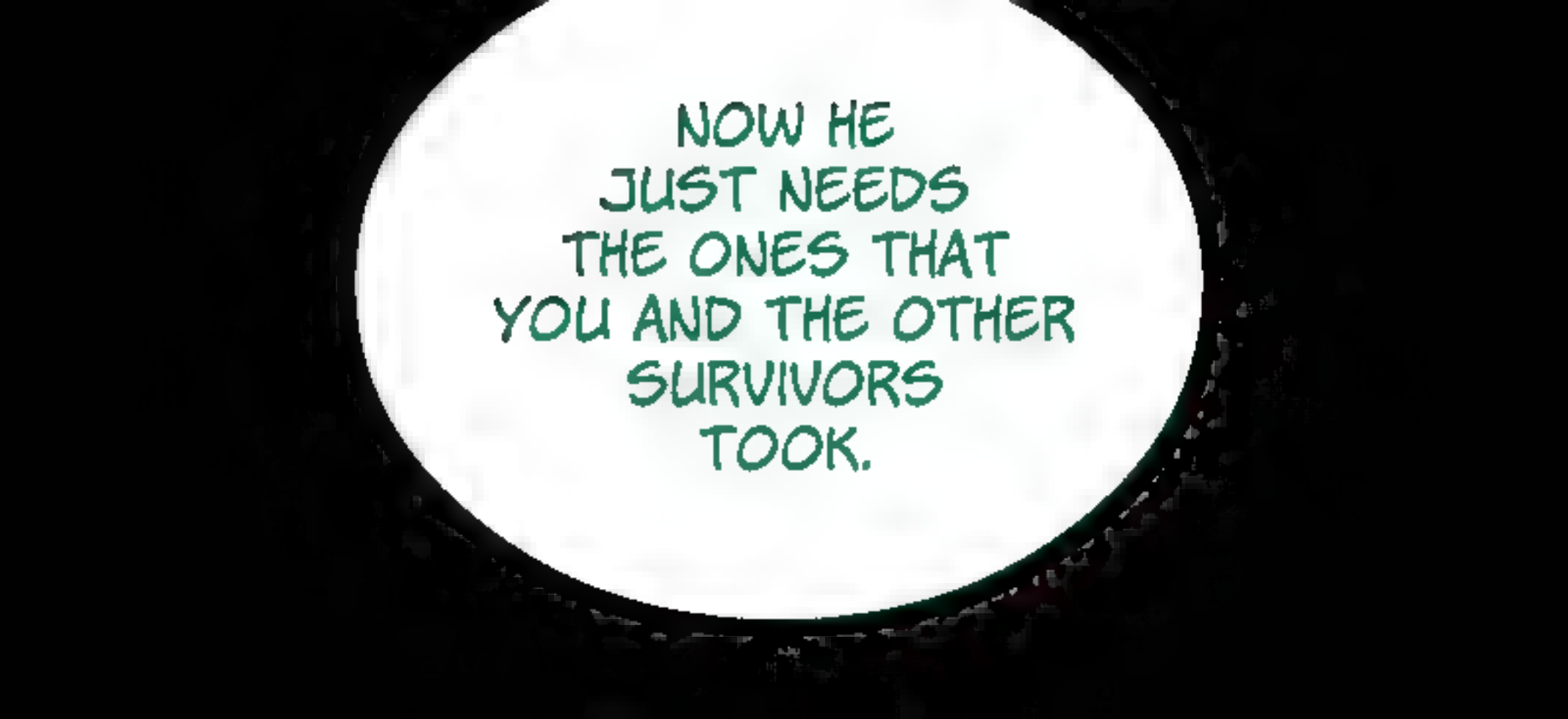

WE TRAPPED DON IN THE ROOM OF SWORDS.

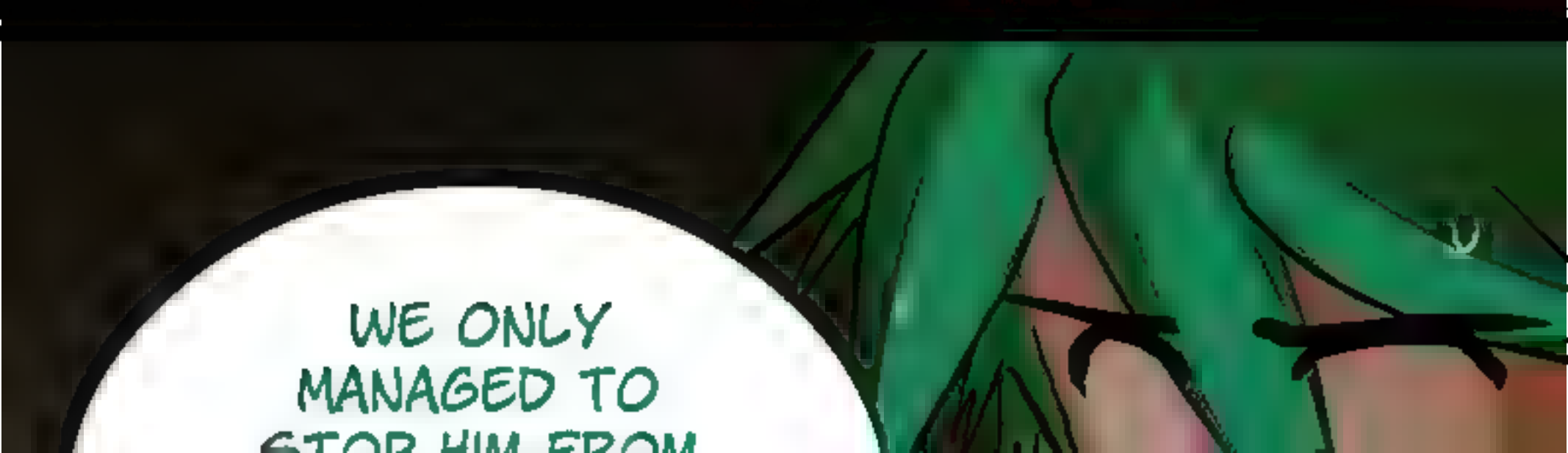
...NO,
HE'S OUT.

WHAT...?

HE USED

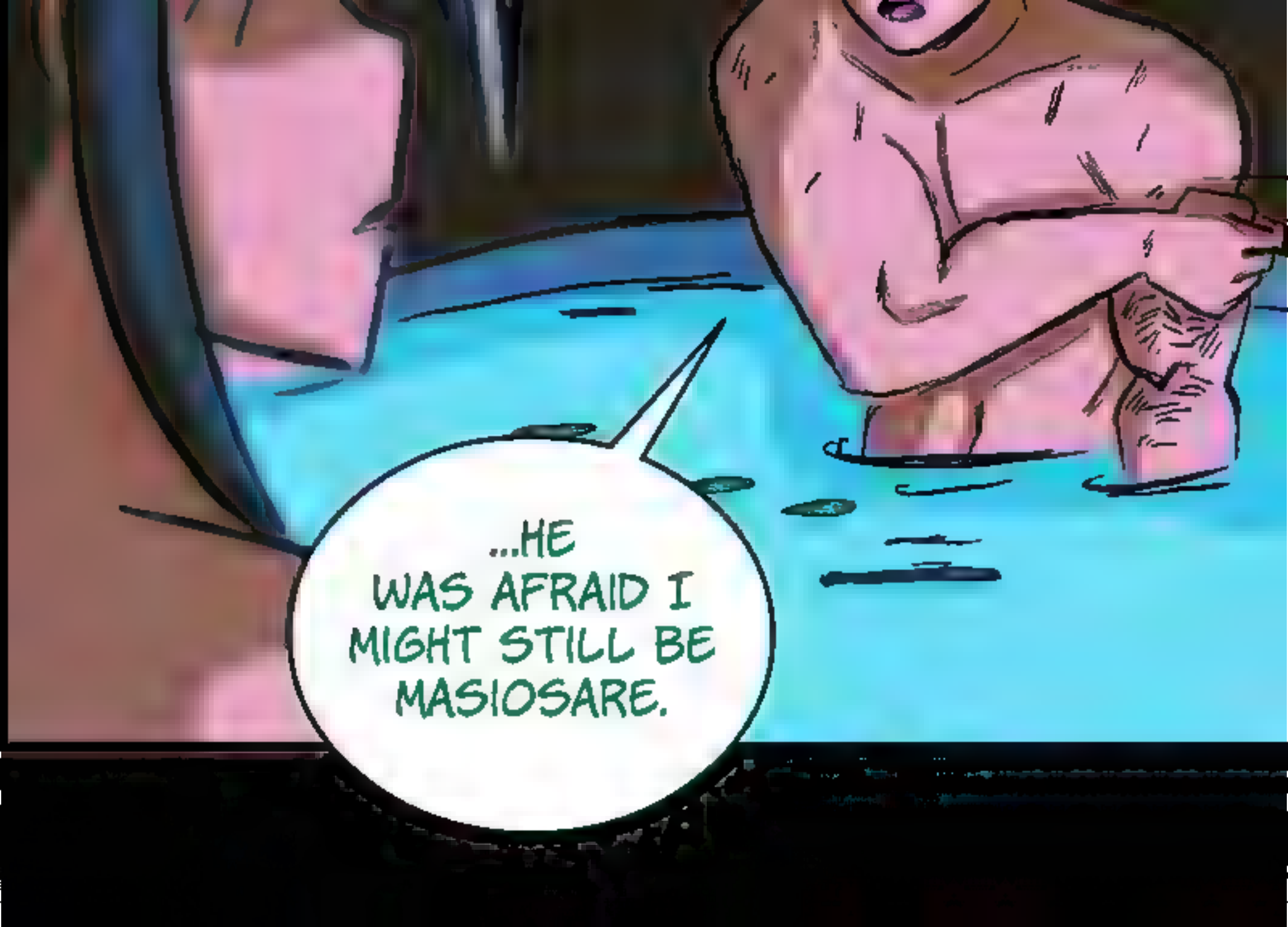
ME TO ESCAPE
AND HE STOLE MY
BOSS SWORDS.

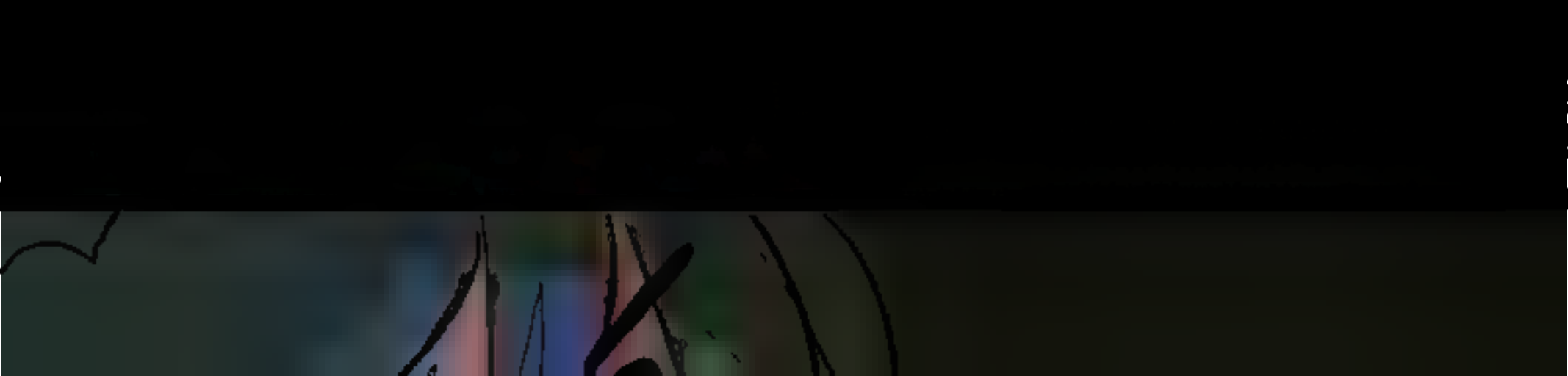

NOW HE
JUST NEEDS
THE ONES THAT
YOU AND THE OTHER
SURVIVORS
TOOK.


WE ONLY MANAGED TO

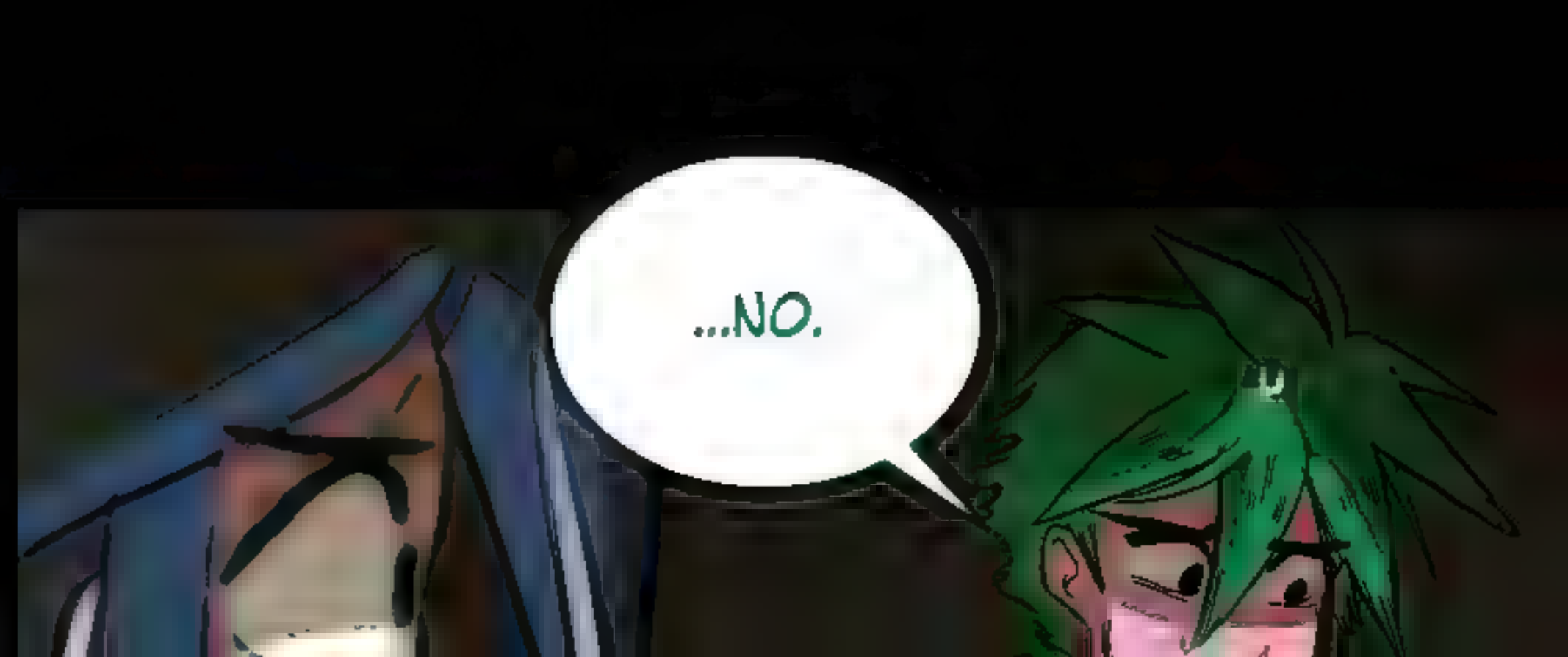
STOP HIM FROM
GETTING SYLVIA'S
SWORD BECAUSE HE
WAS HOLDING
BACK.

WHY WOULD HE BE HOLDING BACK?


...HE
WAS AFRAID I
MIGHT STILL BE
MASIOSARE.



...ARE YOU?


...NO.

AT

LEAST...
NOT YET.

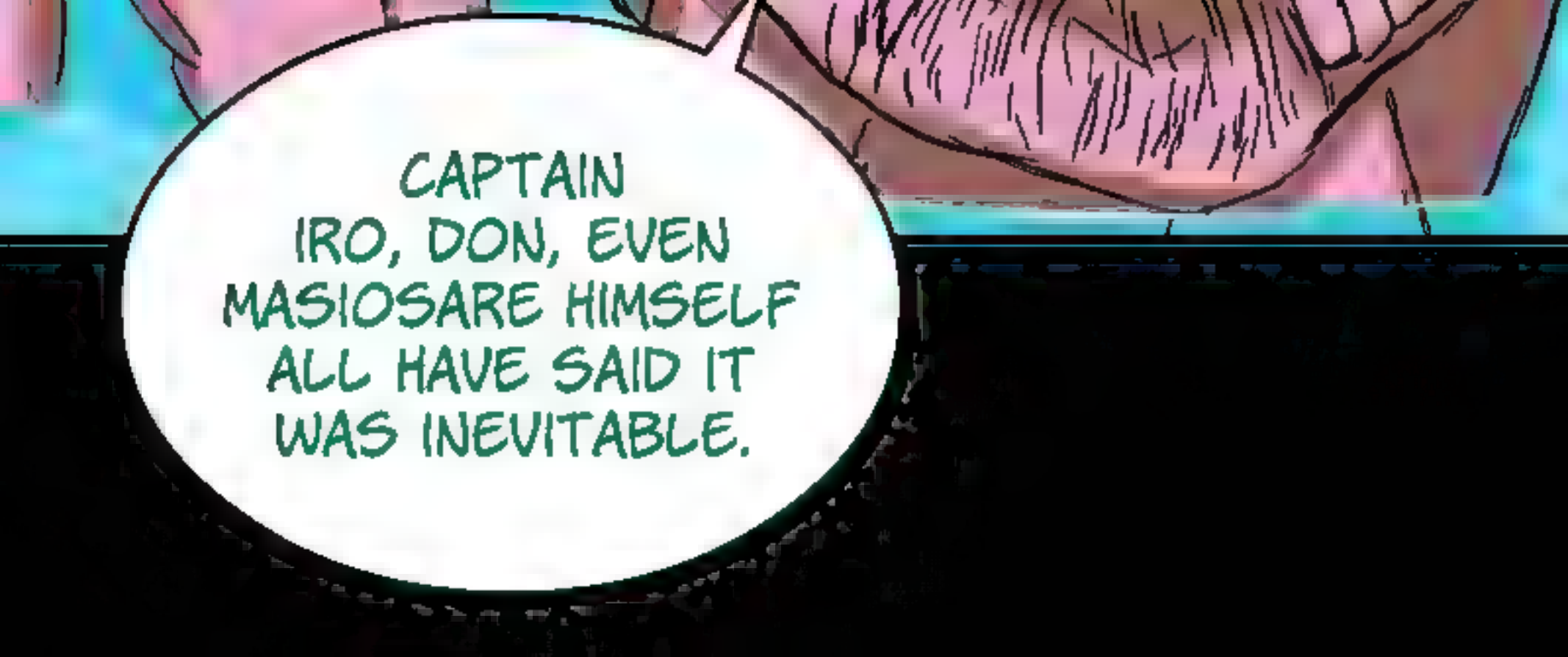
DON'T
YOU MEAN NOT
ANYMORE?

I THOUGHT
WE KILLED
MASIOSARE

MASIDSARD.

BUT WHAT

IF I BECOME
HIM?


CAPTAIN IRO, DON, EVEN MASIOSARE HIMSELF ALL HAVE SAID IT WAS INEVITABLE.

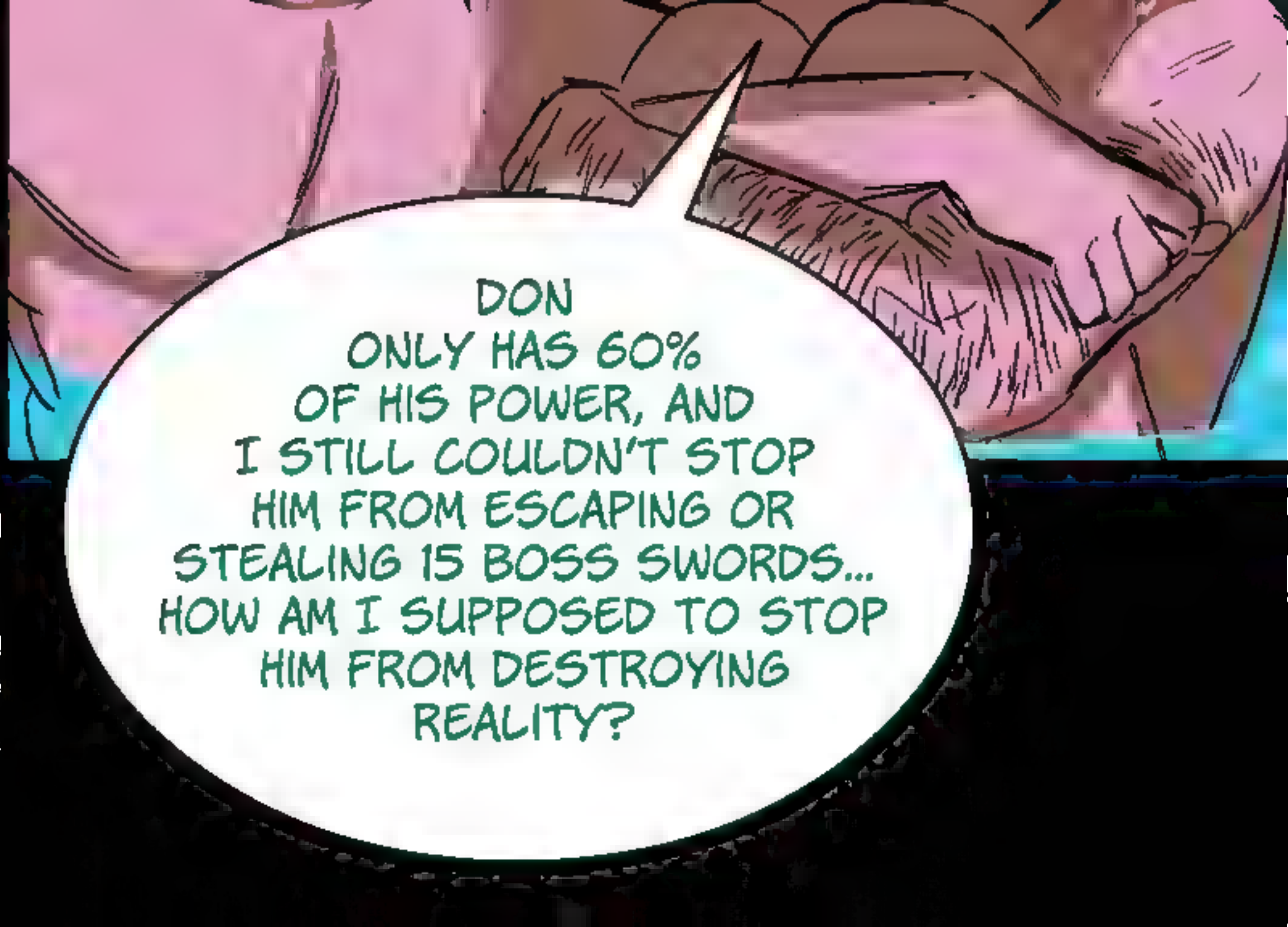
WHAT IF I CAN'T CHANGE IT?

YOU
CAN, GYRUS.
YOU DON'T HAVE TO

BE WHAT ANYONE EXPECTS.

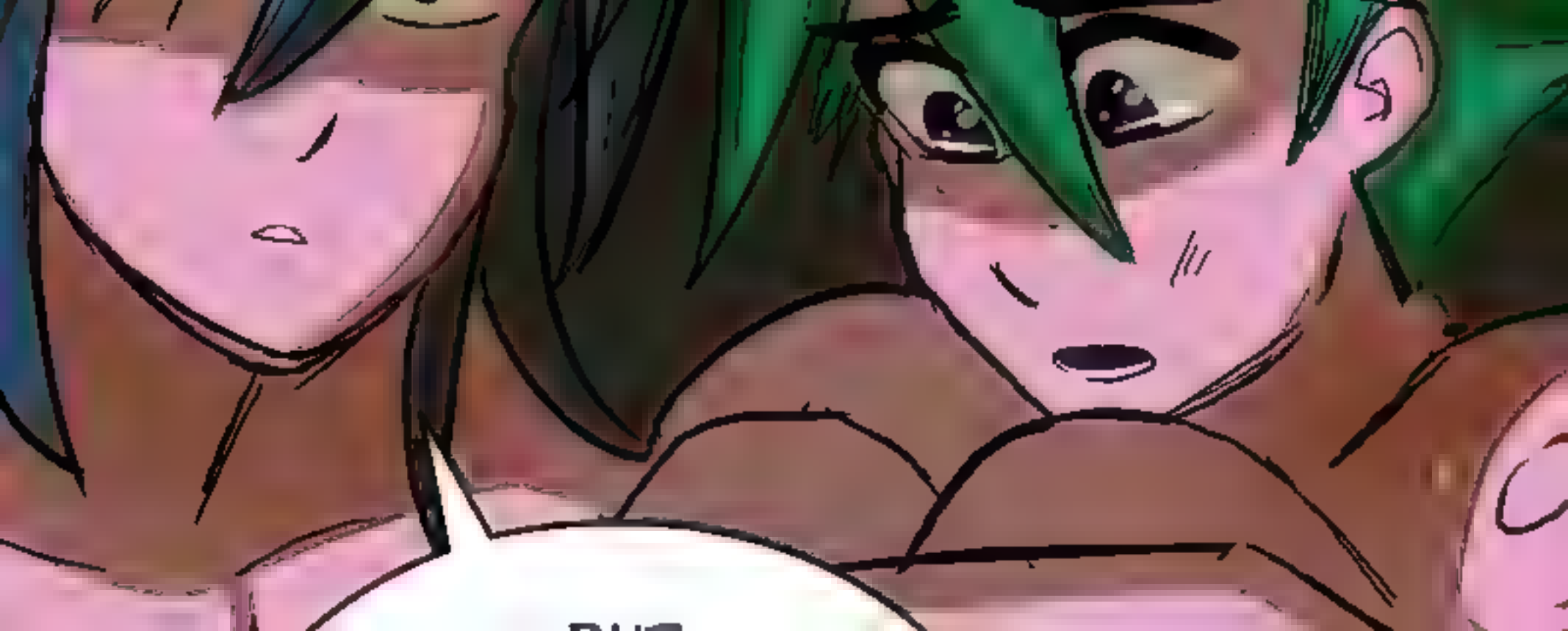
BUT WHAT IF BECOMING MASIOSARE IS THE

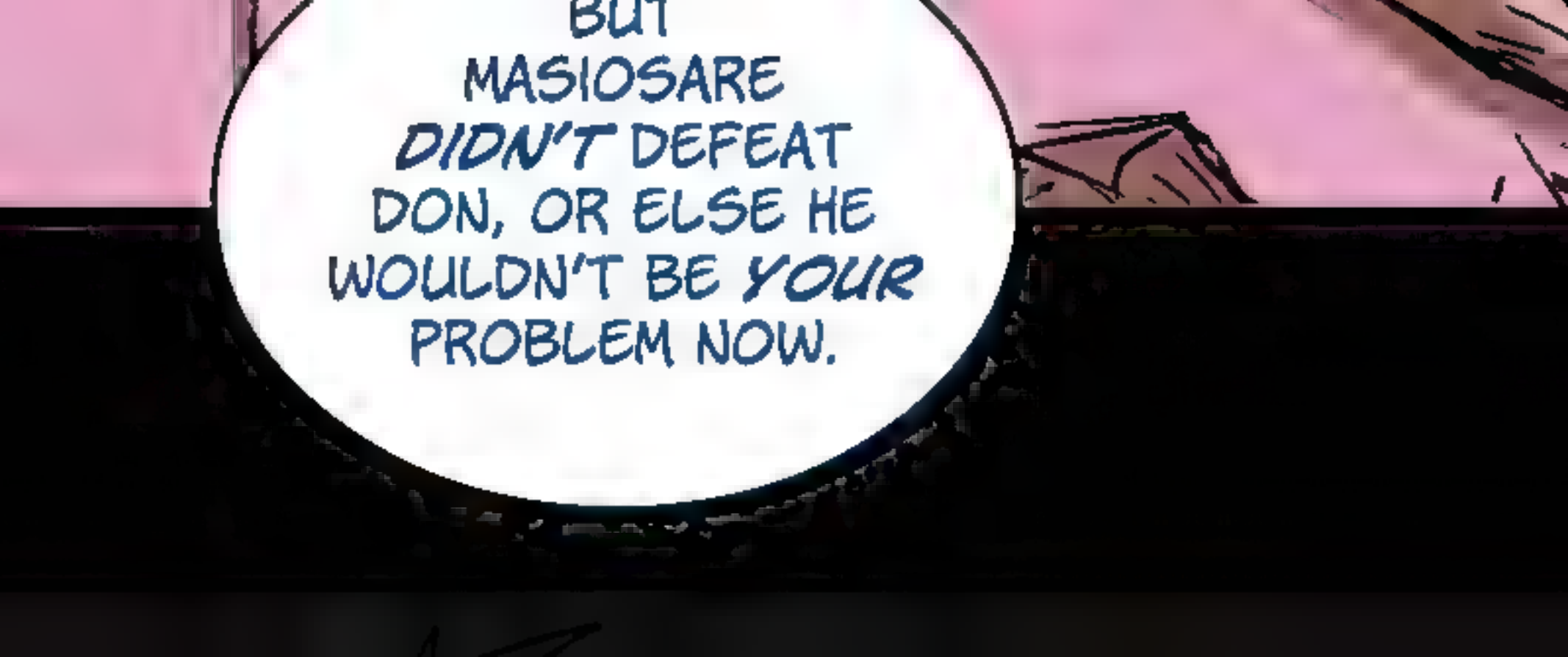
ONLY WAY I'LL BE STRONG ENOUGH?


DON
ONLY HAS 60%
OF HIS POWER, AND
I STILL COULDN'T STOP
HIM FROM ESCAPING OR
STEALING 15 BOSS SWORDS...
HOW AM I SUPPOSED TO STOP
HIM FROM DESTROYING
REALITY?

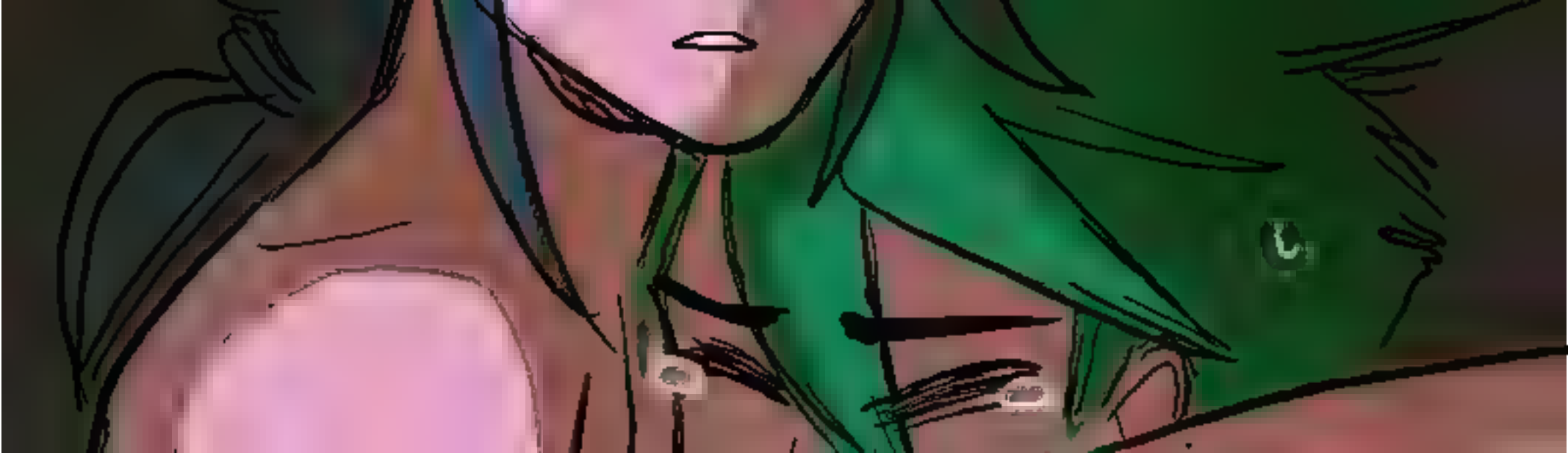
MASIOSARE
DEFEATED HIM
WHEN DON WAS
PRACTICALLY

A GOD.




BUT
MASIOSARE
DIDN'T DEFEAT
DON, OR ELSE HE
WOULDN'T BE YOUR
PROBLEM NOW.

COME HERE.



STRENGTH
ISN'T EVERYTHING,
YOU KNOW.

USE YOUR HEAD, THAT'S YOUR THING...

I'VE MISSED YOU, KODYA...

ROOM of
SWORDS

COLOR ASSISTANT:
@TATSU_ZAM

WRITING ASSISTANT:
GHOSTING

EDITOR:
HB KLEIN

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